

~~Addendum to~~

Hampton Cow Barn

537 1/2 St. Francis Road

Southeast of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House)

North of Hampton National Historic Site

Towson

Baltimore County

Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-H

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-H

HAMPTON COW BARN

Location: 537½ St. Francis Road, southeast of Hampton Overseer's House (Hampton Farm House), north of Hampton National Historic Site, Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland.

Present Owner: Demolished in 1962

Statement of Significance: This building was typical of a large barn structure which was enlarged and adapted to various needs over a long period of time. It was the largest single structure of the Hampton outbuildings and provided space for cattle, milking, hay storage, and farm vehicle storage.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Hampton Cow Barn was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Ridgely Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion and an adjoining forty-two acres to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. After the completion of the sale, John Ridgely, Jr. and his wife moved to the Overseer's House (HABS No. MD-226-J) across Hampton Lane. John Ridgely, Jr. died in 1959 and his wife, Jane Rodney Ridgely, like all the past Ridgely wives, maintains dower rights to the property. John Ridgely III is executor. The Cow Barn was demolished in 1962, along

with the Carpenter-Blacksmith Shop (HABS No. MD-226-I).

2. Date of erection: Pre-1843
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: None known
  5. Alterations and additions: It appears that the Cow Barn was originally a long narrow structure to which a wider, longer rear wing was added giving the structure an ell plan. At a later date the plan was infilled with a one-story ell-shaped shed. Several southeast openings were partially closed at an early date.
  6. Important old views: The 1843 plat of the Hampton estate indicates the plan of the Cow Barn, called the "Cow House," as it was prior to its demolition.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:  
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.
  2. Secondary and published sources: None known

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The section of the two-story Cow Barn which is considered to be the earliest had eight arched bays separated by stone piers at the first floor and was frame with random bays at the second floor. The first floor end elevations did not have any openings, though one opening was centered in each end at the second floor. The stone masonry first addition had eight bays in the southeast and northwest elevations at the first floor and in the northwest elevation at the second floor. Six bays were at the southeast second floor. Eight random bays were separated by the stone piers which supported the shed roof of the second addition.

2. Condition of the fabric: Demolished

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The earliest structure was 18'-3" wide and had a 92'-2" southwest facade. The first addition, combined with the 18'-3" depth, had a 122'-7" long southeast facade and was 35'-8" deep. The second addition added 18'-2" in depth to the first addition and 15'-2" in depth to the original structure.
2. Foundations: The foundations were rubble stone masonry. Brick piers were under interior wood columns.
3. Wall construction, finish and color. The stone piers and stone walls at the first floor level of the earliest structure bore traces of buff-pink stucco which was scored with white paint. The piers were infilled at various locations with wood panels. The second floor of the earliest structure had horizontal wood siding of various ages including beaded siding at the northeast walls.
4. Structural system: The stone masonry piers and walls and wood frame walls supported the floor and roof structures.
5. Porches: The one-story, shed roofed structure formed a covered area within the ell plan. Rubble stone masonry piers supported the roof structure and were partially infilled with boarding and were enclosed at the northwest for two bull pens.
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The barn had a variety of doors set within flat second floor arches and semicircular first floor arches with stone voussoirs and interior wood lintels. All the southwest doorways originally had double board and batten doors that swung out. Other openings had board and batten doors which were singly hung, "Dutch," and sliding. Many were replacements and most were inoperative.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The windows had wood frames set into the flat arched masonry openings and were trimmed with plain flat boards at the frame walls with drip boards over the heads. Fragments of six-light sash

and eight-light sash survived at several openings. The loft of the first addition originally had adjustable louvers mortised into the window frames. Pairs of board and batten shutters survived at several openings.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The roof was wood shingled and gabled over earlier structure. The south corner was hipped after the construction of the first addition. A shed roof, extending from the eaves of the two earlier structures, covered the second addition.
- b. Cornice and eaves: The eaves were boxed and had jig-saw cut fascia boarding in a scallop pattern.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The original structure had adjoining spaces loosely defined by the eight bays. The first addition, which incorporated the south three bays of the original structure, was one large space partially subdivided by wood partitioned livestock stalls and modern milking stalls and feeding troughs. The second addition was open space except for two bull pens.
  - b. Second floor: The second floor of the original structure was divided into three spaces. The second floor of the first addition was one large loft space.
2. Stairways: A shipsladder extended between the first and second floors of the original structure. Three hatch openings were in the second floor of the first addition.
  3. Flooring: The first floor of the original structure, where it is not incorporated into the first addition, was earth, as was the second addition's floor. A concrete milking platform, half the width of the space, extended the length of the first addition's first floor. The second floor of the original structure and the first addition had board floors.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: At the first floor level the finish of the original structure was exposed stone walls and floor structure. The first addition's walls were whitewashed and the ceiling was exposed floor structure.

At the shed addition the wall materials and the roof framing were exposed. The two south rooms of the original structure's second floor had plastered walls and ceilings. The large north room had exposed stud walls and roof structure. The loft space of the first addition, which abutted the original structure with its beaded clapboard siding, had exposed rubble stone walls and exposed roof framing.

5. Doorways and doors: Two board and batten "Dutch" doors survived at the doorways to the bull pens.
6. Special decorative features: None
7. Hardware: The doors and shutters were hung and latched with a variety of wrought iron hardware which appeared to have been original or early replacements.
8. Mechanical equipment: The barn was unheated and had a makeshift electrical system.

D. Site and Surroundings: The Cow Barn, which faced southwest, was located southeast of the Overseer's House (HABS No. MD-226-J) and was near to the north of the Stable Lane intersection with Hampton Lane. The southwest facade of the Long Barn-Granary (HABS No. MD-226-G) aligned with the southwest facade of the Cow Barn. After its demolition, "colonial" tract houses were built on its site and faced a modern street, Stone Barn Road.

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.